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OXC-0500-67
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4 April 67

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Status of OXCART Life Support Equipment Improvements

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The following items were reviewed at [] on 30 March 1967, and [] on 28 March 1967. 25X1A

a. Improved Automatic Lap Belt: All developmental testing has been completed and qualification tests are underway at the present time. Two service bulletins apply to this item. Service Bulletin #1075, covers the positive lock adjusting hardware portion of the belt. The modification kits for this portion are to be at [] the week of 3 April 1967. Service Bulletin #1093 covers the entire lap belt with the improved automatic release and manual release tie down. The modification kits for this service bulletin are to be at [] the week of 24 April 1967. 25X1A 25X1A

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b. Shoulder Harness without Hardware: Five sizes of shoulder harnesses without adjusting hardware have been received at [] for use and evaluation. As of 28 March 1967, only one aircraft had received modification of the inertia reel under service bulletin #1086 which allows these harnesses to be utilized. However, the remaining aircraft inertia reels should be modified in the immediate future. 25X1A

c. Improved Headrest: There has been no change in status on this item since my visit of 1 March 1967 to []. Development tests are complete. Approximately six weeks will be required to obtain production parts for qualification tests and modification kits for aircraft incorporation. A reasonable target date therefore continues to be 1 June 1967.

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d. Emergency Faceplate Heating: Testing is continuing at [] on the incorporation of batteries into the oxygen/actuator pan cover of the parachute. 36 volts is the power supply now identified as the required output to keep the gold coated visor reasonably clear at -65°F. [] was requested to evaluate the PPG visor under

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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the same conditions (using the visor now used by [redacted])
[redacted] There are no target dates at this time on this
largely developmental effort. It is hoped that the [redacted]
prototype battery pack can be evaluated at the same time
as the [redacted] prototype in order to select the most
appropriate device for incorporation.

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e. Automatic Inflators: Automatic flotation garment
inflators are undergoing qualification testing at [redacted]
at the present time. It was agreed by [redacted] Life
Support that incorporation of these inflators in the flotation
vest would not be made until a suitable pressure relief
valve for the vest was identified by [redacted] for incorporation
along with the inflator. This subject will be discussed
with [redacted] on 4 April 1967.

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f. Improved Life Raft: The [redacted] prototype raft was
discussed with [redacted]
at [redacted] and a tentative plan for an open sea evaluation was
formulated. It was proposed to use the survival/E and E
training location and facilities (boat, etc.) in Florida
for a final life raft/flotation system evaluation during the
period 17-19 April 1967. [redacted] will be attending
the Aerospace Medical Association meetings in Washington
just prior to this period and would remain over to partici-
pate. [redacted] would fly to Florida with
the required support equipment via C-130 if available on
16-17 April. A representative from [redacted] would participate
and supply the raft, suit and technical support required.
The undersigned will act as subject and evaluator for the
exercise. Following this evaluation, [redacted] will be asked to
submit a qualification test proposal and delivery schedule for
the improved raft. A decision will be made following this
evaluation whether to proceed with the "horse-collar"
auxiliary flotation or to adapt the harness-integrated
underarm preservers (LPU-3P) as the standard item. A
summary report and outline for action will be written
following the proposed evaluation session.

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